

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is one of the most iconic and studied butterflies in North America, widely admired for its beauty; and

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is extremely beneficial, pollinating many cultivated flowers and crops, and serving as an indicator species for the ecological health of large geographical areas; and

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly's annual migration, which has been described as one of the most spectacular in the insect world, is now classified as a threatened phenomenon by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; and

WHEREAS, 20 years ago, more than one billion monarch butterflies migrated to Mexico, but in 2014, only 60 million made the trip; and

WHEREAS, a major reason for the decline is the widespread loss of the milkweed, the only plant monarch butterflies lay their eggs on, as well as it being the monarch's primary larval food source; and

WHEREAS, the entire community can play a critical role in providing habitat for this species by planting milkweed and nectar plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chuck Bennett, Mayor of the City of Salem, do hereby proclaim on December 11, 2017, that I will participate in the

MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE

and through the signing of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, commit the City of Salem to voluntarily help restore habitat for the monarch and encourage all people of Salem to do the same.

DATED this eleventh day of December, 2017.

Chuck Bennett, Mayor

